

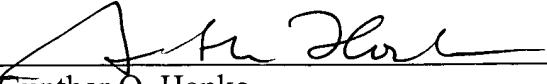
REMARKS

In the aforesaid Office Action, claims 30 and 43 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 30-33, 35 and 43-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Estrada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,193,686), and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Happ et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,575,958), and claims 23, 24, 26, 30-33, 35 and 43-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verbeek (U.S. Patent No. 5,690,613) in view of Rau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,024,722) and in view of Samuelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,165,166). Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 1-5, 9, 19, 25, 27-29 and 42 are allowed. Claims 1-5, 9, 19, 25, 27-29 and 42 are pending (claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 30-33, 35 and 43-46 being cancelled by this amendment).

In light of the above amendments, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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